

Ordinance Book 2, page 53 , April 2, 2013, adopted the Lamar County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

For credit under the Community Rating System, this memo must be distributed to the media and be made available to the public. It is being sent to the papers that cover Lamar County. Copies of this report are available for review at the Lamar County Planning Department, 144 Shelby Speights Dr. in Purvis, MS and on our website at [www.lamarcountry.com](http://www.lamarcountry.com) .

### **1. Background**

The original Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan was drafted by this Hazard Mitigation Planning Council during a series of meetings held November 2004 through December 2005. It includes a detailed list of Hazard Identifications which includes flooding from both Mixon and Turtle Creek also known as Westover as the worst of problems.

On May 24, 2011 the council members and others held a meeting to discuss the update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is required every five years. Everyone participated by bring their completed, new, and continued Mitigation Actions and/or Projects to the table. The initial public hearing was set for February 24, 2012 to afford the public a chance to review

the plan and be able to add any additional items or comments to plan. During this hearing, we discussed the potential changes that would need to be made and got many positive feedbacks. A second public hearing was held on April 1, 2013 to afford the public a chance to review

Status of Plan Implementation

October 2, 2015

Page 2

the final draft of the revised plan. During this hearing, we reviewed the changes set forth and had no objections; therefore, the Board of Supervisors approved to adopt the new plan as submitted.

The Plan reviews a variety of measures that can reduce the problems and/or protect people and property when flooding occurs. Measures reviewed include ditch improvements, retention/detention basins, culvert and storm sewer improvements, flood proofing, flood insurance, emergency response planning, public information, erosion and sediment controls, and building regulations. The plan recommended 22 action items to reduce or prevent any manmade or natural disasters.

### **2. A review of the Plan's action items:**

The 22 action items found in chapter 8 of the April 2013 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation

Plan are reviewed here. They are organized by following the exact list from the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

1. Renovate existing public buildings to meet modern standards.

**Status:** We were approved for grants to be able to harden the following buildings/facilities and they have since been completed:

- The Chancery and Circuit Courthouses
- The Multi-Purpose Facility
- The Accounting Office
- The Tax Assessors Office
- 16 Community Centers
- 12 Fire Stations
- The District Attorney's Office

We also applied for a grant and received approved to be able to build a 10,000 sq ft Hurricane Evacuation Shelter. Lamar County held the Grand Opening of this shelter on March 19, 2012.

2. Provide for redundancy in public and infrastructure operations.

**Status:** Through grant funding we were able to purchase 10 trailer mounted mobile Generators, in the case of a manmade or natural disaster, which will allow the county facilities and shelters to operate during a power outage. These are the following locations where they

have been placed:

Status of Plan Implementation

October 2, 2015

Page 3

- 1 at the Chancery Courthouse along with the Transfer Switch
- 1 at the Purvis Wastewater Treatment Facility along with the Transfer Switch
- 1 at the South Road Barn
- 7 are staged at the Central Maintenance Barn

During a storm/disaster there will be 5 generators designated for shelters, 1 for Sanitation, and 1 for the North Road Barn for fuel mounting. We also applied and were approved for a grant to be able to purchase a permanent mount generator for the Central Maintenance Barn which has been installed and Transfer Switches for the North Road, South Road, Central Maintenance, and Public Safety Maintenance Barns which have been installed and tested.

3. Develop strategies and plans to provide for minimization of damage and disturbance.

**Status:** The County has the following Ordinances and Regulations in place at this time:

- Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (Adopted on January 21, 2010)
- Stormwater Runoff, Illicit Discharges, and Illegal Connections

(Revised December 2004)

- Subdivision Regulations (Revised and Adopted on March 4, 2013)

- Site Plan Review Ordinance ( Amended on May 15, 2008)

- Comprehensive Plan (December 18, 2008)

- Zoning Ordinance (Adopted on November 19, 2009)

4. Purchase equipment that will lower response and recovery cost and accelerate response and recovery time.

**Status:** We applied and were approved for grants to build 13 new Fire Stations and 1 remodel and buy 10 new Fire Trucks in order to accelerate response time and recovery.

To date, all 10 trucks have been purchased and 13 fire stations have been completed. The completed stations are as follows:

- Southwest Lamar VFD Station #3

- Southwest Lamar VFD Station #1

- Southeast Lamar VFD Station #3

- Central Lamar VFD Station #1

- Central Lamar VFD Station #3

- Beaver Lake Fire Station
- Epley Road Fire Station
- Northeast Lamar VFD Station #1

### Status of Plan Implementation

October 2, 2015

Page 4

- Oloh VFD Station #1
- Pine Ridge VFD Station #1
- Hickory Grove VFD Station #2
- Oak Grove VFD Station #2
- Rock Hill Station

In addition to the 10 new fire trucks that we were approved for and purchased, we were able to purchase 3 more Engine trucks and 1 tanker, through the Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program. We have also received 10 new generators that will keep all County Facilities and approved Shelters with power to assist those in need.

Recently we were also approved for 25 tornado shelters that have been constructed and are

located at the following locations within the County:

- Central Lamar VFD Stations 1, 2 and 3
- Hickory Grove VFD Stations 1 and 2
- Lumberton VFD Station 1
- Oak Grove VFD Station 2
- Oloh VFD Stations 1 and 2
- Pine Ridge VFD Stations 1 and 2
- Purvis VFD Station 1
- Beaver lake FPD Station 1
- Southeast VFD Stations 1, 2, and 3
- Southwest VFD Stations 1, 2, and 3
- Sumrall VFD Station 1 and Sumrall FGD Station 1

- North, South, and Central Maintenance Barns
- Emergency Operations Center

Following that, we were approved for a grant to purchase tornado sirens. The sirens are located at the following 15 sites:

- Bass Academy
- Baxterville Community Center
- Central Lamar VFD Station
- Lamar Christian School
- Lumberton City Hall
- Lumberton Fire Station
- Northeast Fire Station
- Oak Grove Elementary School

- Oak Grove High School

### Status of Plan Implementation

October 2, 2015

Page 5

- Oak Grove Fire Station
- Purvis High School
- Purvis Elementary School
- Sumrall Elementary School
- Sumrall Fire Station

### 5. Update information that is available from the Flood Insurance Maps.

**Status:** Lamar County adopted the revised Flood Insurance Rate Maps on March 2, 2010. We were also able to include a digital format that we incorporated into our GIS mapping system. We also keep all records of LOMA's submitted to the county.

6. To provide easily accessible tax map information to the Municipalities in the county, insurance agencies, realtors, banking interests, and individuals.

**Status:** The county currently has a link on our website that directs people to the Delta Computer Systems, which has the tax information for Lamar County. We have plans to incorporate this information onto the website for public view, as well. This will not only have tax information but all street names and Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) will be identified.

7. Provide outreach to the community, including local offices about the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and requirements for the elevation and purchase programs.



**Status:** The Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is posted on the website at [www.lamarcounty.com](http://www.lamarcounty.com)

, at all the public libraries, the Chancery Courthouse, the Planning Department, and the Emergency Management Operations Building.

8. Establish a Hazard Mitigation Library at the Public Libraries.

**Status:** All the public libraries have an index of a variety of Flood Hazard books and the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

9. Develop a brochure “Hazards in Lamar County” that will detail natural hazards within the county.

**Status:** We were officially recognized as a Storm Ready Community on December 7, 2010 which we plan to include in the “Hazards in Lamar County” brochure. The Emergency Management Operations Team is currently creating a brochure to be handed out throughout the County to be used as a public outreach tool.

Status of Plan Implementation

October 2, 2015

Page 6

10. Establish a Speakers Forum.

**Status:** The following persons are part of the Forum for Civic Organizations

- James Smith – Lamar County Emergency Management Director
- Paul Sheffield – Area Coordinator (MEMA)
- Darla Jordan – Hazard Mitigation Specialist (MEMA)
- Harrell Neal – Trainer/Planner (MEMA)
- Stephen Wilkinson – Meteorologist, National Weather Service (Jackson)

11. Establish a Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness Booth at festivals.

**Status:** Ongoing. This is a reoccurrence item each year. On April 25, 2015, the City of Hattiesburg held an Earth Day event in the town square park where Lamar County set up a booth and handed out more information about flooding and stormwater issues. In

2016, we will hold our Hazardous Waste Day in April where we will hand out information about flooding, stormwater issues, recycling, and much more. Lamar County, along with the City of Hattiesburg, Forest County, USM, and Mississippi Power will work together in handing out over 500 flyers and brochures.

12. Encourage the Chambers and Emergency Management to develop a program on Business Continuity Planning for Business.

**Status:** Lamar County has a Council of Government in which all elected officials are invited to meet monthly to discuss business, legislation, hurricane preparedness, pre-planning for natural disasters, and much more. In addition, Lamar County has joined forces with the Area Development Partnership (ADP) to develop a working relationship between all Municipalities and many businesses in the area.

13. Host a luncheon for school principals to showcase educational materials that are available to teachers.

**Status:** Programs such as Masters of Disaster and others have been handed out to all schools in the Lamar County School District but no luncheon has taken place at this time. Due to the tight curriculum that the schools have it has been very difficult for us to plan a formal luncheon and give a presentation. We will continue to try and meet with the faculty and staff at all schools.

14. Establish quarterly meetings between the Board of Supervisors and the three City Governments.

Status of Plan Implementation

October 2, 2015

Page 7

**Status:** There has been a good working relationship at the staff level, so there has been no need to conduct quarterly meetings between the Board of Supervisors and the City Governments. However, Lamar County officials, including the Board of Supervisors, do meet with the 3 City Governing bodies prior to a severe storm such as a hurricane to review strategies on evacuation, pre and post hurricane procedures, reimbursements, etc.

15. The Emergency Management Director, the Volunteer Fire Departments, and the Municipal Fire Departments will develop a Hazardous Materials Response Team through an inter-local agreement.

**Status:** Through grant funding, it has allowed us to develop the team and purchase new

equipment without having to enter into an inter-local agreement. The team is centrally housed and can be used on an as needed basis by any of the Fire Departments or Municipalities.

16. A written plan and standard operating procedures will be developed and incorporated into the County's CEMP (Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan).

**Status:** The Standard Operating Procedures; Hazardous Materials Response Guidelines and the Radiological Response Guidelines; have been added as part of the CEMP and was adopted on February 2007.

17. The Hazardous Materials Team will receive regular training to maintain certification.

Status: Ongoing. The team is trained quarterly to maintain their certification.

18. Establish a formal policy to invite county/city staff to attend site plan review for projects that are immediately adjacent to the jurisdiction or will impact the jurisdiction.

Status: Ongoing. We are still in the process of developing a policy for the Board of Supervisors' approval.

19. Cooperate with Mississippi Department of Transportation to establish pre-disaster policies on maintenance of the right of way.

Status: The County has a standing policy with the Mississippi Department of Transportation that gives us the ability to maintain all state aid road right of ways and clear any potentially dangerous/harmful trees and shrubs/brush from within the right of way.

Status of Plan Implementation

October 2, 2015

Page 8

20. Adopt building codes and minimum standards applied to the construction or reconstruction of buildings to insure public health, welfare, and safety. A community can adopt minimum standards that determine how a building should be constructed.

**Status:** The County has adopted building codes only for the public (county) buildings. The county has held public meetings and one public hearing to adopt Building Codes county wide; no vote was taken by the Lamar County Board of Supervisors due to a lack of interest by the community. Although it is not foreseen in our near future, we would like to have this goal remain in the plan with the idea that this may be needed one day.

21. Adopt similar enforcement procedures between the county and the cities, and consider shared staff to reduce costs and insure consistent enforcement.

**Status:** There is still a very strong lack of interest in the county adopting building codes, however; this item will remain in case it is ever required by the State.

22. Adopt and implement a regulation requiring building owners to retrofit their structures for flood damage, if the structure's insured loss exceeds 50% or more of the structure's value.

**Status:** This requirement is part of our Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance which was adopted on January 21, 2010.

### **3. Why action items have not been completed:**

Of the 22 action items, 10 are ongoing or underway (1-2, 5-6, 8- 9, 14, 17-18). Items 3-4, 7, 10, 12, 15-16, 19, and 22 have been completed. Item 11 is different each year, but we have completed this year's project. Here is why the remaining action items have not been completed.

13. Luncheon for School: We have been unable to plan a luncheon for the principals and staff of the Lamar County School District due to such a tight curriculum, but we are going to keep trying to set a day where we can go and interact with the staff and make them aware of some of the things we can offer.

20. Adopting Building Codes: In 2006, Lamar County attempted to adopt building codes but was unsuccessful in doing so. We plan to leave this item as one of our goals so that we may move forward without delay if the State every requires this of Lamar County in the future

Status of Plan Implementation

October 2, 2015

Page 9

21. Similar Enforcement Procedures: As a reflection of action item 20, this item will remain as part of the Plan.

In short, we have completed or are implementing 86% of the Plan's recommendations.

### **5. Recommendations**

1. The County staff should continue their job of implementing the Plan's ongoing recommendations, as well as, updating the Plan. We revised our Plan and adopted it on April 1, 2013.

2. The County should continue its participation with the Area development Partnership, Municipalities, and businesses in discussing matters such as business, legislation, and hurricane preparedness.

3. The County should keep the website updated to include all new information including the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and this progress report.